the PULSE
BOSTON, MASS. DECEMBER, 1961
NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL

RECORD SET FOR PATIENT DAYS IN 1960-61

BARGAIN TIME — Mrs. Elton Watkins, Jr., left, selling at the Christmas Bazaar for the Friends of the Deaconess, selects a small decorated Christmas tree for the admiration of Mrs. Priscilla Arnold, personnel secretary. (Story on Page 4)

An all-time record in patient days for the year ending September 30, 1961, was reported to the corporation members and trustees of the New England Deaconess Hospital at their annual meeting held at the hospital on Tuesday, November 21.

Francis W. Capper was re-elected president of the Corporation. He told the trustees and corporation members that "we must speak in terms of the patient" when explaining to the public the purposes of new buildings soon to be constructed in the Deaconess complex.

"Ground-breaking in the near future for the doctors' office building and the radiation research laboratory will not go unnoticed," he said, explaining that this will be opportune time to bring the full story of the hospital to the public.

R. D. Lowry, executive director, disclosed that 114,000 patient days of service were given to 10,417 patients admitted to the Deaconess Hospital last fiscal year, a gain of about 2,000 patient days over the previous year.

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NEW RECORD

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Due to the anticipated continuing increase in patient volume in coming years, Mr. Lowry said the hospital must begin to make plans for an expansion program involving the hospital's physical plant, research projects, and advanced medical and surgical training program for promising young physicians.

Dr. Richard B. Cattell, medical director of the Lahey Clinic and a member of the hospital's surgical staff, gave the report of the hospital's medical and surgical staffs to the group, emphasizing the many technological and scientific advances achieved in medicine and utilized at the Deaconess this past year.

Miss Judith Gay, Director of Volunteers for the Friends of the Deaconess, reported that the gifts donated to the hospital by the Friends this past year were in the amount of $24,000.

Dr. Elliott P. Joslin, honorary president of the International Diabetes Federation and the American Diabetes Association, spoke about his trip to Geneva, Switzerland last July, to attend the 4th Congress of the International Diabetes Federation. At this congress Dr. Joslin was awarded an honorary diploma of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences. He also spoke of the tremendous strides in the treatment of diabetes which he has seen in his lifetime.

Other officers re-elected were Howard W. Brewer, Worcester, vice-president; Laurens MacLure, Cohasset, vice-president; Henry S. Rogerson, Brookline, treasurer; and Vincent P. Clarke, Winchester, clerk.

Elected members of the corporation were James Mason Rothwell, Boston; Stephen Sonnabend, Brookline; Robert P. Tibolt, Cohasset; Everett Ware Smith, Wellesley; Charles E. Rogerson, Duxbury; Oscar W. Wikstrom, West Newton; Herbert A. Bailey, Boston; Rev. Lewis H. Beckford, Bangor, Maine; and Rev. Lewis H. Moulton, Concord, New Hampshire.

Bishop James K. Mathews of Newtonville and Rev. Harold H. Cramer of Melrose were elected to the Board of Trustees.

CHRISTMAS ART

The delicate and angelic decor of page one in this issue of the Pulse results from the art talents of Margery Pond, Nursing Supervisor.

HONORED — Miss Jessie Kennedy, seated center, is presented a silver Paul Revere bowl by R. D. Lowry, executive director, in tribute to her 31 years of service to the hospital. Watching the presentation at Miss Kennedy's retirement tea in Harris Hall are, standing, Miss Ellen Adams, left, and Mrs. Helen Talbot. Seated, left, is Miss Agnes Kennedy, and Mrs. Florence Lowe, right.

JESSIE KENNEDY RETIRES AFTER 31 YEARS

Miss Jessie Kennedy, chief telephone operator, an employee of the hospital for thirty-one years, was given a tea to honor her service on December 1, in Harris Hall. Miss Kennedy's associates and friends were there to wish her well in retirement.

R. D. Lowry, executive director, presented Miss Kennedy with a sterling silver Paul Revere bowl as a token of the hospital's appreciation of the fine service Miss Kennedy gave the hospital at the switchboard. Mrs. Florence Lowe, switchboard operator, then presented her with a purse from Deaconess employees.

Miss Kennedy plans to live in Sarnia, Ontario, with her niece and nephew for the winter.

MRS. GARCIA NEW MEDICAL LIBRARIAN

Mrs. Marjorie Garcia, former administrative assistant to Miss Howland, assumed the duties of librarian in the Gilbert Horrax Memorial Library on Deaconess I. She succeeds Mrs. Janet Keany, who has left the Deaconess to reside in St. Thomas, V. I.

A recently transplanted San Franciscan, Mrs. Garcia is a registered nurse who served with the Army Nurse Corps during World War II in nursing administration and psychiatry. She has studied at the Universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and at the University of California at Berkeley.

Among the positions she has held are secretary to the director of the Cleveland Health Museum and Administrative assistant to the director of Crocker Radiation Laboratories at the Atomic Energy Commission installation at the University of California at Berkeley. She was also a public librarian for three years in the university town of Eugene, Oregon.

Mrs. Garcia reads voraciously and is a serious student of the piano.

Christmas Bazaar Boosts Nursing Scholarship Fund

The annual Christmas Bazaar held in the Central Lobby by the School of Nursing and the Friends of the Deaconess was a success again this year. Hospital employees, ambulatory patients and visitors to the hospital on the morning of December 8th were eager to buy the many Christmas, household, food and greenery items for sale.

Proceeds of the bazaar are donated to the School of Nursing scholarship fund.

Mrs. James T. Mountz, first vice-president of the Friends of the Deaconess, was chairman of the Christmas Bazaar, and Mrs. Lauriston Ward, Jr., was treasurer.

Chairmen of the tables at the bazaar were Mrs. Elmer Hinton, Christmas items; Mrs. Richard Paige, children's articles; Mrs. John B. McKittrick, household items; Mrs. Joseph Marks, food; Mrs. George McClellan, greenery; Mrs. Sandra Sheiber, white elephants, and Mrs. Fred Cheney, candy.

ALPHA DIVIDEND RAISED TO 4%

The nineteenth annual meeting of the NEDH Alpha Credit Union was held in the Joslin Auditorium on November 15th.

Mrs. Beryl B. Paine, treasurer, announced that the union's dividend to be paid to members for the six months ending October 31 will be 4%, an amount equal to current commercial bank dividends.

A proposed change in the by-laws was read and approved by Credit Union members, to the effect that not only Deaconess Hospital employees, but now Joslin Clinic and Overholt Clinic employees and staff members and nurses not specifically in the employ of the hospital are eligible for membership.

During the past year, the Credit Union instituted several new services for its members. The payroll deduction plan, a long-awaited project, is now in effect. The sale of registered checks and savings bank life insurance, member loans for automobile payments, and "blind" applications for loans to insure the borrower's anonymity are a few of the services added to aid present Credit Union members and attract new ones.

New Directors to serve on the Alpha Credit Union Board for the next three years were elected. The new board members are Marjorie LeBeau, Marion Haskell, Beryl B. Paine, Ruth Pendleton and W. Clifford Fisher.

GERM WARFARE VICTORY WON IN SPECIAL CARE UNIT

BY JOHN L. ROWBOTHAM, M.D.

For six months the Special Care Unit has carried on its activities under special rules of conduct established by the Infection Committee of the New England Deaconess Hospital. Restriction of traffic, meticulous housekeeping, use of protective masks and other intensive hygienic methods have prevented the development and spread of infections in the Special Care Unit.

The need for special nursing care has never been greater. The methods of modern medicine and extensive surgery all point to the need for intelligent, specifically trained, highly motivated nursing care. Only in a small special care ward can the equipment and the skill be centralized. Yet the nature of the area is such that only the most seriously ill are located there — and the condition of the patients makes them vulnerable to infection.

Aware of the ever present Staphylococcus aureaus, the Infection Committee six months ago instituted a pilot study in the Special Care Unit with the intention of eliminating and excluding dangerous bacteria from the unit. To attain maximal security first, the following things were done:

1. The unit was cleared of all patients.
2. The entire unit area and all the equipment were washed and disinfected with an antiseptic, disinfectant, and germicide.
3. All visitors were denied admission.
4. All attending personnel (nurses, aids, technicians, and doctors) were required to wear protective gowns and masks.
5. Only patients free of infection were allowed in the unit.
6. Bactericidal ultraviolet lights were placed over the entrance doors to the unit.
7. A foot bath was placed at the entrance for use by everyone entering the unit.
8. The first evidence of infection in a patient prompted his discharge from the unit or transfer to the isolation room within the unit.
9. A method was established for sampling the air by exposure to pour plates, placed strategically in the unit for 30 minutes twice a week.
10. Air flow methods were established to assure fresh outside air circulated into the unit.
11. Intensified housekeeping and maintenance methods by specifically trained personnel were established.

With progressive proof of security, some of the restrictions were relaxed. The ruling against visitors was soon dropped and visiting was left to the discretion of the attending physician or head nurse. Next, the wearing of gowns by visitors, staff, and all others was discontinued. Finally, the unsightly foot dip was taken away.

Bacteriologic studies mentioned above have been continued. On only one plate in 184 was Staphylococcus found. It has never been cultured again. No patient has acquired an infection from any other patient as far as can be determined. The development of a virulent bacterial infection by a patient in the Special Care Unit has apparently not contaminated the environment.

These studies which are still going on, seem to show that a relaxing of some of the more stringent rules of conduct has in no way interferred with efficient conduct of the Special Care Unit. It is the intent of the hospital administration to continue with the same methods of housekeeping and maintenance.

The ultraviolet light will be continued. The Special Care Staff will continue the present system of using scrub suits and masks. The rules governing admission and discharge from the unit will remain in effect. Any future changes will be made only after thorough investigation reveals that the safety and the efficiency of the unit will not be affected.

The Infection Committee feels that this report is significant, and it wants to stress that the inquiring atmosphere at the New England Deaconess Hospital has been made possible only by the willing support of the attending personnel of the Special Care Unit and the housekeeping staff. The Committee furthermore appreciates the understanding of the attending physicians who helped us complete this pilot study.

Editor, The Pulse:

Since it is impossible to thank each one individually, may I take this opportunity to say a sincere "thank you" for the many gifts, cards, flowers, blood donations and good care I received when I was a patient on Palmer IV.

ANNE MACKINNON,

Christmas Party Dec. 22

The hospital Christmas party for staff and employees will be held on Friday, December 22, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the newly decorated cafeteria.

Paul Monaghan and his band will provide music and refreshments will be served. Also highlighting the entertainment will be children of some of our employees, who will sing and play musical instruments.

Each guest will receive a box of candy.

WINTER PARKING RULES SET

With winter weather and snow storms approaching, all personnel are reminded of the following winter parking regulations at the Hospital:

1. No car may be left in any hospital parking lot in the evening or overnight during snow removal.

2. Any car left in a hospital parking lot after 7:00 p.m. on the evening of a snowstorm, or while snow removal is in progress, may be towed away at car owner's expense.

3. No car may be parked in any hospital parking lot until snow removal is completed, or until the person in charge of snow removal approves.

4. All cars must be legibly identified with the current NEDH parking sticker.

5. Cars bearing NEDH parking stickers shall not impede snow removal by the hospital on Pilgrim Road, Deaconess Road, Francis Street, or Autumn Street.

6. Failure to observe the above winter parking regulations will result in loss of parking privileges at the hospital.

Snow removal will be announced over the hospital paging system. Full cooperation of all hospital personnel will enable the grounds department to expedite clearing of parking areas for your convenience.

NURSING SCHOOL GLEE CLUB GIVES CONCERT

The annual Christmas concert presented by the Glee Club of the School of Nursing was held December 12 in Harris Hall with a presentation of music both familiar and unusual.

John J. Markarian, Jr., directed the Glee Club, and Jeanne Weston was accompanist. Cheryl Fortier was Miss Weston's assistant.

The first part of the evening's program consisted of such Christmas songs as "Come Unto Him", "Jingle Bells", "To Shepherds Fast Asleep", and "Swedish Dance Carol" sung by the entire Glee Club. Soloists were Linda Abbott, singing "O Holy Night", Evelyn Boston singing "The Snow Lay on the Ground", Karin Nyberg singing "Gesu Bambino", and Ruth Ploettner singing "Night of Nights".

After the intermission, the Glee Club presented "The Song of Christmas", by Roy Ringwald, which is a story of the Nativity as told in Christmas songs, carols and Biblical verses. Karen Orff served as narrator, and Evelyn Boston, Karen Nyberg, Donna Miller and Eileen Bissell were soloists.

Immediately following the highly successful concert, an Open House sponsored by the Executive Committee was held in the Cafeteria.

Weddings

Martha Whicher, staff nurse, to Robert M. Rowe on September 16. The couple was married by Rev. Rudolph L. Samuelson in the Arthur T. Dooley Chapel.

Gloria McGuire, staff nurse, to Dr. Richard E. Conway, on November 23.

Patricia Warren, class of 1954, to Ronald H. Welsh, on October 22.

Engagements

Barbara Benner, class of 1959, to John Goodier of Stanford University, Calif.

Nancy Gates, class of 1960, to John A. Hayes, Jr. of Bloomfield, Conn.

Mary Jane Wilson, staff nurse, to Alfred W. Eicholzer of Saugus.

Joyce Ann Baker, class of 1962, to Rev. Dale L. Sanford of North Canton, Ohio.

Brenda Gill, staff nurse, to Dr. Leo McCallum, surgical resident.

Note of Gratitude

TO THE DEACONESS HOSPITAL:
To the Deaconess Hospital:

I feel compelled to tell you that much of the anxiety in connection with my mother's hospitalization was relieved by the complete confidence I had that she was receiving the best possible care.

We expect efficient, competent care when a person is hospitalized, but the loving care and warmth that was evident at the Deaconess is something I've never been aware of before.

The kind gentleman who parked my car when Mother was admitted, the nurses and hostesses on the floor, and the doctors, should be very proud to be a part of creating such a fine atmosphere.

Please do pass along my gratitude to everyone.

Most sincerely,
(Miss) Anna S. Dyam

GIFTS INCREASED FOR UNITED FUND

The 1961 United Fund campaign at the New England Deaconess Hospital ended on a successful note with total cash and pledge gifts exceeding $8,500, a 13% increase over the amount raised at the hospital last year.

Per capita giving increased 26%, from an average of $9.82 in 1960 to an average of $12.53 in 1961.

Commendations sent to the hospital from United Fund headquarters are extended to all hospital personnel who helped make this outstanding campaign possible.

Dean Annis Promoted In Comptroller's Office

Richard E. Lee, Comptroller, recently announced the promotion of Dean Annis to the position of Assistant to the Comptroller. Mr. Annis, a graduate of Bentley College and a former public accountant for Webster McCann, the hospital's auditing firm, came to the Deaconess last year as Supervisor of the IBM Room.

In his new position, Mr. Annis will assist Mr. Lee in payroll control, cost analysis, internal auditing and development of systems and procedures.

Albert Smith, formerly assistant supervisor in the IBM Room, is now in charge of that department.